

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

1000 Washington Street, Boston

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: September 17, 2018

Location: Rm. 1D

Time: 11:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Charles Borstel
Commissioner Patrick Bradley
Commissioner Paul Karger
Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Neldy Jean-Francois, Deputy Commissioner of DPL
Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel
Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing
Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III
Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dr. Peter Warinner, M.D., Chair for the Medical Advisory Board
Dr. Lou Durkin, M.D., Medical Advisory Board Member
Mohamed Hadifi, No Boundary Fight League
Andrew Myerson, Haymakers for Hope
Julie Kelly, Haymakers for Hope
Nicola Dillon, Applicant
James Perella, President of USA Boxing New England
Dean Fay, USA Boxing
Melissa Kelly, USA Boxing
Stan Zanowski, USA Boxing
Kevin MacDonald, Mixed Martial Arts Referee

Chair Rod Walkey was not present at the meeting. Commissioner Karger made a motion to grant Commissioner Borstel as acting Chair, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting called to order by Acting Chair Charles Borstel at 11:05 AM.

1. Roll call

Acting Chair, Charles Borstel
Commissioner Patrick Bradley
Commissioner Paul Karger
Commissioner Bryan Lambert
Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III
Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III
Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing
Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel
Neldy Jean-Francois, Deputy Commissioner

2. Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2018

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the minutes from August 20, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Upon the suggestion of the Executive Director, items 6 through 11 were addressed prior to items 3-5.

6. Request for Permission to hold a special tournament from Fred Belletin and Mohamad Hadifi for the October 20, 2018 Muay Thai event

Licensed Matchmaker Mohamad Hadifi requested permission to hold a four women tournament during his event on October 20, 2018 in Melrose. Mr. Hadifi stated that the participants would compete at the beginning of the event and the winners would compete against each other at the end of the event. This would allow for plenty of rest and hydration. He also stated that each amateur participant has previously endured this type of tournament prior as each match would be scheduled for 3 rounds at 2 minutes each. Commissioner Karger stated that in his experience, these types of tournaments can be grueling as the drawback is fatigue. Mr. Hadifi reiterated that these participants will have time to rest and that they have performed in these tournaments during their career. Dr. Peter Warinner, Chair for the Medical Advisory Board stated that he has worked with Mohamad in the past and feels that his professionalism and good judgment along with his eagerness to work with the doctors should be considered in this decision. In addition, Dr. Warinner suggested a formal pre/post medical evaluation be required for each fighter.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the special tournament based on the matchmaker's experience and the requirement for the pre/post medical evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

7. Application for Matchmaker –Nicola C. Dillon

Applicant Nicola C. Dillon addressed the board to apply for her boxing matchmaker's license. Ms. Dillon expressed her passion for the sport as well as detailed her experience in the boxing industry as an amateur boxing judge for 20 years with USA Boxing, trainer, gym owner, and professional boxing matchmaker. She also stated that her family has a promoter's license.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the application for matchmaker, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

8. Application for Judge –Marcus McDonnell

Via telephone, applicant Marcus McDonnell addressed the board detailing his 30 plus years as a referee in the sport of boxing all over the world. Mr. McDonnell also detailed his judging experience over the last 10 years as well as his experience as an IBF, WBF, and WBO official.

Commissioner Bradley made a motion to approve the application for judge, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

9. Application for Referee –Steve Willis

Via telephone, applicant Steve Willis detailed his experience as a referee throughout the country and spoke of different scenarios in which he had to make tough calls. Mr. Willis is currently licensed in the State of New York and is actively working their shows.

Commissioner Bradley made a motion to approve the application for judge, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

10. Application for Judge –Ramon Cerdan

Via telephone and translated by Andrew Horn, Legal Advisor for the World Boxing Organization, applicant Ramon Cerdan addressed the board by detailing his experience as a judge across the country and that he wishes to extend his career to the East Coast. Mr. Cerdan stated that he currently judges in countries such as Japan, New Zealand and Germany and these bouts are normally sanctioned by championship organizations.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the application for judge, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

11. Application for Deputy Commissioner –Miguel A. Hernandez

Miguel A. Hernandez did not appear.

3. USA Boxing

- Request for Variance from Mike McAtee
- Request for Variance from Amateur Boxing Officials Licensing

The President of USA Boxing, Mike McAtee addressed the board requesting a variance from 523 CMR section 6.01 and 6.02 specifically the blood requirement for un-armed combatants 18 years or older. Mr. McAtee expressed his great concern for this requirement as he felt it would hinder the participation in the State of Massachusetts by amateur boxers as they would be unable to obtain this kind of testing due to cost and or lack of insurance. Mr. McAtee continued to detail the pathway to the Olympic through the USA Boxing program and the effects this decision has made not only on those athletes but on the local amateur shows and clubs. Commissioner Bradley added his concerns regarding the cancelled memberships of the USA Boxing Officials participating in shows sanctioned by MSAC and asked for confirmation on whether or not this was a fact. Mr. McAtee did not confirm this as this is not policy with USA Boxing and that is was a misinterpretation of their rules. He stated that USA Boxing Officials may partake in MSAC sanctioned events.

The discussion returned to the variance at hand with Dr. Peter Warinner, M.D., Chair for the Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Warinner stated that he would be willing to continue to work the USA Boxing doctors to discuss the blood further.

Commissioner Bradley made a motion to grant the variance until April 2019 with the promise of continued conversations and work with the MSAC Medical advisory Board and USA Boxing Doctors, seconded by Commissioner Karger. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. McAtee asked consideration from the board by requesting a variance from 523 CMR section 19.04 regarding the licensure of amateur boxing officials. Mr. McAtee detailed the amount of licensees that would be required to license with MSAC as well as with USA Boxing as it would be burdensome to all. The variance was not accepted as this requirement is statutory.

However the board agreed to allow the applicants to apply through MSAC staff rather than appear before the board. Commissioner Lambert made a motion to grant MSAC staff with the review and approval/denial of amateur official applicants, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

4. Request for Variance from Andrew Myerson and Julie Kelly (Haymakers for Hope)

- Proposed event October 10, 2018 at the House of Blues

Andrew Myerson and Julie Kelly requested a variance on applying for an event date 30 days in advance of the proposed date. Their organization Haymakers for Hope would like to schedule an amateur show on October 10, 2018 at the House of Blues in Boston, MA.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the event date, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

5. Request for Variance from Charles Murray (Massachusetts State Boxing Team)

- Proposed event September 29, 2018 at the Marina Bay Sports Plex

Jesse Sweet of the Massachusetts State Boxing Team addressed the board on behalf of Charles Murray who was unable to attend. Mr. Sweet was looking to schedule a charity amateur boxing event on September 29, 2018 in Quincy, MA at the Marina Bay Sports Plex. Mr. Sweet stated that the event would have police detail, ambulance detail. The use of 16 oz. gloves with added protection for each participant.

Mr. Sweet sought a variance from 523 CMR Section 6.01 except from the requirements of licensed seconds, trainers, and referees. Commissioner Bradley made a motion to accept the variance but the event will require 1 licensed ringside physician, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Sweet sought a variance from 523 CMR Section 6.02 except from the requirement of a fit-to-fight physical examination. Commissioner Lambert made a motion to accept the variance as requested but will require all female participants to have proof of a negative pregnancy test, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Sweet sought a variance from 523 CMR Sections 6.03 – 7.07; *application by an amateur as a professional, applications as a promoter, second, manager, trainer*. Commissioner Bradley made a motion to approve his requests for a variance from these sections, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Sweet sought a variance from 523 CMR Section 6.08; *application for License as a Referee, judge, Timekeeper, Scorekeeper and Ringside Physician*. Commissioner Lambert made a motion to accept the variance except for the requirement of a licensed referee and 1 licensed ringside physician, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The board voted to approve the variance in the same manner in which they approved the last variance request by Mr. Murray on May 25, 2018 accept for sections 6.01, 6.02, and 6.08 as these variances are statutory requirements.

12. **Deputy Commissioner Application** (delegated authority vs. full board review)
The board decided to keep the authority to approve new Deputy Commissioners.

13. **Update on Regulation Review**

Acting Chair Charles Borstel explained to the board the process of reviewing and possibly revising the regulations. This process will begin at the next upcoming board meeting.

14. **Review of MSAC Applications**

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

15. **Upcoming MSAC Event Schedule/2018 MSAC Board Meetings**

The board reviewed the upcoming schedules.

16. **Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting**

Representative Michael Pernick of the World Boxing Organization (WBO) addressed the board and requested a variance from 523 CMR section 10.05, the set fee schedule for officials. Mr. Pernick asked for a higher pay schedule for the officials who have been selected to officiate the WBO Championship bout only on October 20, 2018 at the TD Garden in Boston, MA.

The requested fee schedule is as follows: Referee \$2,800.00 – Judges \$2,000.00 ea.

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to accept the fees as requested, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:03 PM.

Board Exhibits:

-Board packet contents
Draft minutes –August 20, 2018
Variance request from No Boundary Fights
Matchmaker application –Nicola C. Dillon
Judge Application –Marcus McDonnell
Referee Application –Steve Willis
Judge Application – Ramon Cerdan
Appointment application –Miguel Hernandez
Variance request from USA Boxing
Variance request from Haymakers for Hope
Variance request from Massachusetts State Boxing Team
Draft MSAC applications
Upcoming MSAC events and meetings schedule
Variance request from the World Boxing Organization